

We claim:

1. A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, including sand, and water to form a resulting composition that hardens, wherein the sand includes grains approximately 1 millimeter in diameter and grains less than 0.5 millimeters in diameter;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

allowing the resulting composition to harden on the building for a time sufficient to prevent reformation of the composition; and

scraping a rough trowel against the resulting composition to remove an exterior portion of the resulting composition, wherein the surface of the composition defines a plane after the step of scraping, and wherein at least a portion of the grains approximately 1 millimeter in diameter lie along the plane and are removed by the step of scraping so that the surface includes a plurality of divots

where the grains approximately 1 millimeter in diameter have been removed.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes approximately 5% by weight of particles having a diameter of approximately 1 mm or greater and approximately 95% by weight of particles having a diameter of approximately 0.5 mm or less.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes the following mixture:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
1.0	5.4
0.5	21.1
0.25	16.0
0.125	15.1
0.063	14.2
< 0.063	28.2

4. The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes the following mixture:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
1.0	15.1
0.5	11.7
0.25	10.8
0.125	25.2
0.063	13.6
< 0.063	23.6

5. The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the sand includes the following mixture:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
2.0	0.1
1.6	5.7
1.0	17.5
0.5	17.3
0.25	9.8
0.125	8.7
0.063	3.4
< 0.063	36

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building comprises spreading the resulting composition on the exterior of the building with a trowel.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building comprises spraying the resulting composition on the exterior of the building by projection.

8. A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, including sand, to form a resulting composition that hardens upon application to a surface, wherein the sand includes coarse particles approximately 1 mm in diameter, or greater, and includes fine particles approximately 0.5 mm in diameter, or less;

applying the resulting composition to a surface;

scraping the resulting composition with a rough trowel to form an even surface along a plane, wherein a portion of the coarse particles lie in the plane and wherein at least a portion of the coarse particles that lie in the plane are removed by the scraping to leave divots of matching size in the even surface; and

allowing the resulting composition to harden, after the step of applying the resulting composition and before the step of scraping the resulting composition, for a time sufficient: (a) to prevent reformation of the resulting composition; (b) to prevent uneven scraping of the resulting composition by the rough trowel; and (c) to

prevent any of the resulting composition from sticking to the rough trowel.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar the sand has the following composition:

<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Weight %</u>
4.0	0-5
2.0	0-15
1.0	5-20
0.5	10-35
0.25	10-20
0.125	5-30
0.063	2-15
< 0.063	20-40

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to the surface comprises applying the resulting composition with a trowel.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to the surface comprises applying

the resulting composition by projection then smoothing with a trowel.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the concrete-based mortar further includes an accelerant.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar, the concrete-based mortar further includes a plastifier.